

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4508

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 3214

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ASEC, ES, SW

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED SWEDISH EXECUTIVE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4327

1. WE INFORMED MFA OF PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL (WHICH COINCIDED WITH THEIR INFORMATION) ALONG WITH BASIC GIST OF PARA 4. GIVEN BACKGROUND OF PARA 3 REFTEL, WE ALSO ALLUDED TO SOME SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SECURE US FACILITIES HAD NOT BEEN USED AS WELL AS CONCERN OVER USE OF OPEN TELEPHONE BY SWEDISH AMBASSADOR HELLERYD.

2. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MATTER (OUR TRUSTED FRIEND LARS AKE NILSSON) SAID HE WANTED TO REASSURE US FIRST THAT MFA AND ITS SECGEN LEIF LEIFLAND WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF US HELP. FURTHERMORE, NILSSON SAID HE WAS ALSO CERTAIN THERE WAS NO LACK OF COOPERATIVE SPIRIT ON PART OF AMBASSADOR HELLERYD OR SWEDISH DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN SALVADOR BUT LATTERHAD BEEN LIMITED BY NARROW POSITION OF L.M. ERICSSON COMPANY. LATTER HAD CRITICIZED HELLERYD FOR CALLING IN "OUTSIDERS" AND SPECIFICALLY HAD OPPOSED HELLERYD'S VISIT TO US EMBASSY AS POSSIBLY JEOPARDIZING

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BJORK'S SAFETY. HELLERYD AND MFA HERE HAVE BOTH ARGUED ADVISABILITY OF CONTACTING US, ESPECIALLY AFTER INVOLVEMENT OF US NATIONAL IN THE CASE.

3. NILSSON SAID TELEPHONE CALLS WEREMADE IN SWEDISH LANGUAGE AND DECISION TO USE THIS METHOD WAS BASED ON ASSESSMENT THAT GOES DID NOT HAVE MONITORING CAPABILITY IN THE SWEDISH LANAGUAGE.

NILSSON WAS SOMEWHAT SHAKEN BY OUR JUDGMENT THAT SECURITY OF OPERATION MAY HAVE BEEN JEOPARDIZED BY USE OF OPEN PHONE, HOWEVER.

4. NILSSON ALSO DISCUSSED THE CASE. MRS. BJORK HAD MADE TWO PASSES OF PICKUP SITE AND WAS JOINED ON SECOND ROUND BY TWO WELL-DRESSED, WELL-EDUCATED YOUNG MEN. MONEY WAS TRANSFERRED AS INDICATED REFTEL AND SHE WAS TOLD OF GARAGE IN WHICH CAR COULD BE PICKED UP LATER. KIDNAPPERS ALSO MADE POLITICAL DEMANDS. TWO MANIFESTOS WERE TO BE PUBLISHED IN PRESS OF SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, JAPAN AND SWEDEN (US NOT MENTIONED). MANIFESTOS DID NOT MENTION KIDNAPPING BUT ARE VITUPERATIVE IN NATURE WITH FOCUS ON EVILS OF IMPERIALISM GENERALLY, ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM AND ROLE OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. IN SALVADOR ALONE, THERE WAS ALSO TO BE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN POLITICAL SLOGANS. DEADLINE OF 11:00 AM TUESDAY WAS SET FOR THESE POLITICAL DEMANDS TO BE MET. THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT BJORK WOULD BE RETURNED SAFE IF EITHER POLITICAL OR FINANCIAL CONDITIONS ARE MET.

5. IN ADDITION TO PHONE CALLS, NILSSON'S SOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON CASE APPARENTLY INCLUDE SWEDISH OFFICIAL WHO HAS RETURNED TO STOCKHOLM FROM SALVADOR WITHIN PAST DAY AND IS RETURNING TO SALVADOR NIGHT OF AUGUST 20.

6. NILSSON SAID THERE WERE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING KIDNAPPER'S DEMANDS. LM ERICSSON COMPANY APPARENTLY HAS GOOD CONTACT IN
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PERSON OF SALVADOREAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND, THROUGH HIM, A LEADING PUBLISHER. EVEN IF PUBLICATION OF MANIFESTOES COULD BE ARRANGED, THERE WAS OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF THEREBY ALERTING GOES TO SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF CASE. SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE ON ITS COURSE OF ACTION.

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENT. US-SWEDISH RELATIONS HAVE RECENTLY UNDERGONE SOME MAJOR STRAINS IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FIELD WHICH WE AND CORE OFFICIALS OF MFA HAVE SOUGHT TO CONTAIN IN ORDER NOT TO INJURE EXCELLENT OVERALL RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPED THESE LAST FEW YEARS (AND ESPECIALLY UNDER CURRENT FALLDIN GOVERNMENT). DESPITE FRUSTRATIONS APPARENTLY BEING CAUSED BY L M ERICSSON COMPANY'S NARROW APPROACH, WE HOPE THAT THESE IMPORTANT BILATERAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. ALTHOUGH ERICSSON COMPANY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN MOST SERIOUS RECENT DECISION AFFECTING SWEDEN, IT SHARES RESENTMENT OVER PERCEIVED RECENT GRIEVANCES AGAINST US AMONG TRADITIONALLY PRO-US SECTORS OF SWEDISH OPINION.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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